

" Seven weeks have passed since Germany renewed with the utmost ruthlessness her never-wholly abandoned submarine war against neutrals and noncombatants. She then notified our Government of her intention. This notification was itself a declaration of war and should have been treated as such. During the seven weeks that have since elapsed she has steadily waged war upon us. It has been a war of murder upon us; she has killed American women and children as well as American men upon the high seas. She has sunk our ships, our ports have been put under blockade. She has asked Mexico and Japan to join her in dismembering this country. If these are not overt acts of war, then Lexington and Bunker Hill were not overt acts of war.

" Seven weeks ago we broke relations with Germany. This was eminently proper. But it amounted to nothing, it was an empty gesture, unless it was followed by vigorous and efficient action. Yet during the seven weeks (a time as long as the entire duration of the war between Prussia and Austria in 1866) we have done nothing. We have not even prepared.

"Under existing conditions armed neutrality is only another name for timid war; and Germany despises timidity as she despises all other forms of feebleness. She does not wage timid war herself, and she neither respects nor understands it in others.

"Seemingly her submarine warfare has failed and is less menacing now than it was seven weeks ago. We are profit- ing and shall profit by this failure. But we have

done nothing  
ing to bring it about. It has been due solely to  
the efficiency  
of the British Navy. We have done nothing to  
help ourselves. We have done nothing to secure our  
own safety  
or to vindicate our own honor. We have been  
content to  
shelter ourselves behind the fleet of a foreign  
power.

"Such a position is intolerable to all self-  
respecting  
Americans who are proud of the great  
heritage handed  
down to them by their fathers and their  
fathers' fathers.  
Let us dare to look the truth in the face. Let  
us dare to  
use our own strength in our own defense and  
strike hard